

What Were the Guiding Principles in Developing the Plan?

The City of Fairfax has a strong sense of community and an attractive small town atmosphere that residents and City leaders seek to protect and enhance, particularly through its parks, recreation, events and cultural arts programs. To ensure the Strategic Master Plan aligned with other City and community initiatives and supported efforts to maintain this sense of community and small town atmosphere, several guiding principles were followed.



Sense of Place – Protect and Promote the City's Sense of Place

We are committed to protecting and promoting the unique “small town atmosphere” that is so rare in the Washington Metropolitan area. We will maintain and sustain the quality programs, events, cultural arts, services, and features that our residents have cherished and valued through the years and will strive to further enhance them to contribute to our close-knit, personalized sense of community. We will ensure a balance of developed and undeveloped space, a blend of active and passive recreation, a variety and equitable distribution of park locations throughout the City, and an interconnected trail system to link neighborhoods, parks, schools, and commercial areas.



Health and Wellness – Develop the Health and Wellness of Our Residents

We are committed to promoting and developing the health and well-being of our residents by providing a wide range of programs, services, and facilities. We will implement initiatives to combat sedentary lifestyles, reduce obesity and incidence of chronic disease through physical activity, provide a connection with nature to relieve stress and improve mental health, and foster overall wellness and healthy habits and opportunities that add balance to life.



Economic Vitality – Promote Economic Vitality

We recognize and are committed to enhancing the City's economic vitality through the provision of award winning, nationally recognized park and recreation programs and services. The quality of our programs, facilities, and services will improve the local tax base, increase property values, attract businesses, produce revenue to offset operating costs, and provide indirect revenues to our economy. Our highly acclaimed special events, cultural activities and services will attract commerce to our City, enhance tourism, and contribute to continued growth and development.



Stewardship – Promote Conservation and Environmental Stewardship

We are committed to preserving natural resources and wildlife habitat, protecting clean water and clean air, and providing open space for current and future generations. We believe that parks provide an essential connection for people of all ages and abilities to life-enhancing benefits of nature and the outdoors. The quality of life for every person in our community is improved by clean, green, and accessible parks and open space. We are dedicated to protecting open space, educating and interpreting the value of conservation, and connecting people with nature and the outdoors.



Partnerships – Leverage Strategic Partnerships

We recognize that to meet the evolving needs of our City, we are not able to accomplish this alone. We will collaborate with and leverage the support of other City departments and programs, non-profit organizations, public entities, private businesses, academic institutions, and regional, state and federal organizations to deliver quality programs, facilities, and services. We are committed to forging and sustaining these relationships to create lasting impact for our City.